

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 23, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 43

Introduced by Senators Huff, Cogdill, Harman, and Strickland
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Conway, Gilmore, Harkey, Ma,
Nestande, Niello, *Portantino*, and Silva)

May 6, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43—Relative to California Water Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 43, as amended, Huff. California Water Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim May 2009 as California Water Awareness Month, and encourage all Californians to participate in a statewide campaign that focuses on educating Californians about the value of water in everyday life.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California's 37 million residents and its
2 agricultural, industrial, commercial, and recreational industries
3 rely on the availability of water to support beneficial uses of water;
4 and
5 WHEREAS, California's hydrologic and geographic diversity
6 requires the implementation of multiple strategies to ensure
7 adequate, timely supplies of water throughout the state; and
8 WHEREAS, Snowpack in the northern Sierra Nevada has
9 historically yielded 18.5 million acre-feet of California's average
10 annual runoff that benefits riparian species and habitat, as well as

1 the state's urban and agricultural users, and yet is a limited
2 resource; and

3 WHEREAS, The Colorado River has historically supplied water
4 to about 20 million water users throughout southern California,
5 but provides uncertain reliability; and

6 WHEREAS, Groundwater reserves provide vital flexibility to
7 water users throughout the state, and must be managed to maintain
8 this flexibility; and

9 WHEREAS, The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a key
10 natural estuary and the pathway through which more than 25
11 million Californians and 2.5 million acres of productive farmland
12 receive water, is in an ecological crisis that threatens people as
13 well as the environment; and

14 WHEREAS, California is now in its third consecutive year of
15 drought; and

16 WHEREAS, Much of California has a semiarid climate that
17 provides limited precipitation even in wet years, and further urgent
18 action is needed to address water shortages and to protect the
19 people of, and property in, California; and

20 WHEREAS, The first step toward ensuring the availability of
21 water is to understand the sources from which it comes; and

22 WHEREAS, There are many simple actions each Californian
23 can take to conserve water without an appreciable effect on their
24 lives; and

25 ~~WHEREAS, At least 22 local water agencies throughout the~~
26 ~~state have already implemented mandatory water conservation~~
27 ~~measures, and 61 local water agencies have implemented other~~
28 ~~water conservation programs or restrictions on water deliveries,~~
29 ~~with many agencies considering additional rationing and water~~
30 ~~supply reductions in 2009; and~~

31 WHEREAS, Many of California's water agencies have acted
32 locally to diversify their water portfolios and to implement water
33 conservation measures to ensure greater reliability of their supplies;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, The circumstances of the severe drought conditions,
36 by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services,
37 personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county or city
38 and therefore require mutual and regional action; and

39 WHEREAS, The Governor has directed the Department of
40 Water Resources, in partnership with other appropriate agencies,

1 to launch a statewide water conservation campaign calling for all
2 Californians to immediately decrease their water use; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims May
6 2009 as California Water Awareness Month, and encourages all
7 Californians to participate in a statewide campaign that focuses
8 on educating Californians about the value of water in everyday
9 life; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.